

Message Text

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USDOC

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEIL FROM THE AMBASSADOR

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TAGS: BEXP, YO
SUBJ: US/YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL WORKING GROUPS, ZAGREB FALL
FAIR

REF: STATE 193453

1. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR AUGUST 1 MESSAGE REGARDING THE US/
YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL WORKING GROUPS (WG'S) AND YOUR
VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA IN MID-SEPTEMBER. I KNOW THAT YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE ZAGREB FALL FAIR WILL BE WELCOMED BOTH BY THE YUGOSLAVS
AND BY THE US BUSINESS FIRMS PARTICIPATING THIS YEAR AS A
CONCRETE SIGN OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO STRENGTHENING
OUR BILATERAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

2. THE OFFICIAL OPENING DAY OF THE FAIR ITSELF IS FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, AT WHICH SENIOR YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
WILL BE PRESENT AND CONDUCT A WALK THROUGH OF ALL THE EXHIBITS.
"AMERICA DAY" AT THE FAIR IS THE NEXT DAY, SEPTEMBER 16, WITH A
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MORNING RECEPTION AT THE US PAVILION WHICH I PROPOSE TO CO-HOST
WITH YOU. OF THESE TWO EVENTS, OF COURSE, AMERICA DAY IS THE MOST
IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO ATTEND, BUT IF YOUR SCHEDULE PERMITS, I
WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF YOU COULD JOIN ME IN ZAGREB ON THE OPENING
DAY AS WELL.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE WORKING GROUPS, I WANT TO CAUTION YOU THAT

AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI MAY BE GETTING A BIT OUT IN FRONT OF HIS GOVERNMENT AT THIS STAGE. THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE STILL NOT APPROVED THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WG'S (WHICH WE TRANSMITTED TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT IN MID-JUNE) NOR HAVE THEY NAMED THEIR CO-CHAIRMAN FOR THE BELGRADE BASED GROUP. HOWEVER, WE DO EXPECT A DECISION ON THIS IN EARLY SEPTEMBER AND ALMOST CERTAINLY BEFORE YOUR VISIT. IN ANY EVENT, I AGREE WITH YOU IN SUPPORTING THE CHANGE THAT BELOVSKI SUGGESTED ON PAGE 1 AS A FIRST OBJECTIVE (PARA 2 REFTEL), AND WE HAVE PASSED THIS ON TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT HERE.

4. I WELCOME YOUR PROPOSAL TO HOLD AN INITIAL MEETING OF THE WASHINGTON WG ON SEPTEMBER 8, ASSUMING YUGOSLAV APPROVAL OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE BY THAT TIME, AND BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A USEFUL OCCASION TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES AND OUTSTANDING ISSUES AS YOU SUGGEST. THE SHORT TIME REMAINING AND THE FULL SCHEDULE OF YUGOSLAV VISITS TO THE US, AS YOU POINT OUT, MAKES A FULL SCALE WORKING GROUP SESSION IN BELGRADE IN SEPTEMBER MOST UNLIKELY. HOWEVER, WE ARE THINKING OF HOLDING AN INITIAL MEETING OF THE BELGRADE WG SEPTEMBER 18-19 TO GO OVER PROCEDURES, AS YOU ARE DOING, AND WOULD GREATLY WELCOME YOUR PRESENCE AND CONTRIBUTION. WE ALSO HOPE THAT YOU CAN BE PRESENT FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF OUR NEW AMERICAN BUSINESS CENTER IN BELGRADE ON SEPTEMBER 18.

5. AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT OF THE YUGOSLAV CHAMBER OF ECONOMY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ILIJA VAKIC, IS PLANNING TO LEAD A 30 MEMBER BUSINESS DELEGATION TO THE US THE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER AND THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER. I THINK IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS VISIT AT YOUR SEPTEMBER 8 WG MEETING, BOTH TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE COORDINATION WITH THE YUGOSLAV TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AND THE US/YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC COUNCIL IN NEW YORK (WHICH I UNDERSTAND ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VISIT) AND A GOOD PROGRAM FOR VAKIC, WHO RANKS AT THE LEVEL OF VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT, IN WASHINGTON.

6. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR FORTHCOMING VISIT AND HOPE THAT YOUR WIFE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPANY YOU. WHILE YOU ARE IN BELGRADE, I TRUST YOU WILL STAY WITH US AT THE RESIDENCE. WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,
EAGLEBURGER

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